

II.—*Further Notes on the Birds of Aden.*

By Lieut.-Col. J. W. YERBURY, R.A., F.Z.S.

(Plate I.)

So much has already been written by the late Mr. Barnes (*Ibis*, 1893, pp. 57 & 165) and by myself (*Ibis*, 1886, p. 11 *et seqq.*) about the physical aspect of the country in the neighbourhood of Aden that it is necessary to say but little more on that subject. Haithalhim, which was formerly one of my favourite hunting-grounds in this district, has been, I regret to say, almost entirely spoiled by floods. The irrigation works have been destroyed and half the garden has been carried away; the trunks of big tamarind-trees, 15 feet or more in circumference, are to be seen lying in the river-bed, while the remaining trees are either dead or dying. I was unlucky in the time that I selected for visiting Lahej, as, owing to the drought, the country was quite burnt up, the jowari and other crops having in great measure failed in consequence. I must add a few words of explanation as to why so little was done ornithologically during my recent trip. When I decided to visit Aden I determined to direct my attention chiefly to the following groups—Diptera, Mammals, and Reptiles,—and only to collect such birds as appeared in the Aden list as “species incertæ,” or which I did not recognize. On showing a list of Aden birds to Dr. Sharpe before going out and asking him to tick off the desiderata, I found my field of work considerably increased, though even then I was glad to see not enough to necessitate systematic collecting. Specimens of many common species, however, were obtained, as at times it was necessary to feed the skinner (taxidermist, as he loved to style himself), when there were no mammals or good birds for him to work at. But after all a great deal still remains to be done ornithologically in the neighbourhood, while a visit to the mountains inland would probably produce unknown treasures.

It having been suggested that the addition of a few words regarding the localities of the present collection is necessary, I now give them. The bulk of my collection was made round about three places, viz. :—Shaik Othman, about five miles

from the Barrier Gate; Al Hautah or Lahej, 19 miles off; and Haithallim, roughly 25 miles away. Aden itself yielded little but shore-birds. Aden has, however, many human visitors "passing on migration"; and as most of these land and drive to the tanks, a word regarding the birds likely to be seen there may be of interest. The species will be few, and the following list will probably include all, viz.:—*Neophron percnopterus* and *Milvus ægyptius* en route, while at the tanks the following are almost certain to be met with: *Columba livia*, *Turtur senegalensis*, *Passer domesticus*, *Pycnonotus xanthopygius*, *Myrmecocichla melanura*, and *Ptyanoprogne obsoleta*; *Hyphantornis galbula* and *Passer euchloris* are both close by, and may also be seen. Other birds, of course, resort to the tanks occasionally, but their visits are few and far between. On returning to the ship *Larus hemprichi* is certain to be seen round about.

## I. ACCIPITRES.

### 1. VULTUR MONACHUS, Linn.

*Gyps fulvus*, Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 63.

A pair of large Vultures were seen in the Maala plain, Aden, on February 15th, but not shot at; the only occasion on which these birds were met with during my recent visit. The Vulture referred to by Barnes as being in the possession of Mr. Still at Aden is now in the Zoological Society's Gardens, and has been identified as *Vultur monachus*\*; but it is possible that some species of *Gyps* may also occur there.

2. NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS (Linn.); Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 13; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 64.

On reference to my old notes I find this species recorded as having been seen at Aden in every month of the year, whence my conclusion that it was a resident and bred there. On talking the matter over with Capt. Shopland and Capt. Nurse, both these gentlemen stated that in their experience the numbers of this species diminished considerably during the hot weather. It is probable therefore that Barnes is

\* [See P. Z. S. 1892, p. 716. The specimen was presented by Mr. W. H. Still, of Aden.—P. L. S.]

correct in saying that this Vulture does not breed in Aden, the large rookeries seen in many parts of the peninsula being roosting- and not nesting-places. Capt. Shopland told me that he had sent a native up to one of these rookeries, but that no nests were to be found.

3. *CIRCUS MACRURUS* (S. G. Gm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. i. p. 67 (1874).

a. ♂. Lahej, March 10, 1895.

Common inland at Aden.

4. *MELIERAX POLYZONUS* (Rüpp.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 67.

Not uncommon round Lahej.

5. *ACCIPITER NISUS* (Linn.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 65.

a. ♂. Lahej, March 8, 1895.

Not uncommon in the Aden district.

6. *AQUILA IMPERIALIS* (Bechst.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 66.  
Recorded by Barnes, but not met with by me.

7. *AQUILA CHRYSÆTUS* (Linn.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 65.

An Eagle seen on the plateau below Shum-shum, sailing along the edge of the cliffs bordering the deep nullah running into the tanks, was probably of this species.

8. *HALIAËTUS LEUCOGASTER* (Gm.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 66.

Recorded by Barnes, but surely a most unlikely bird to be found near Aden.

9. *MILVUS ÆGYPTIUS* (Gm.); Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 14; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 67.

A resident species, very common and generally distributed. It breeds everywhere in the neighbourhood—in Aden on the cliffs, at Lahej and Shaik Othman in the small trees. A nest found at the latter place in March 1895 contained only one egg; it was situated in a tree, about 25 feet from the ground.

10. *ELANUS CÆRULEUS* (Desf.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 67.

Not uncommon at the edge of the desert round Lahej (Al Hautah).

11. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*, Gm. ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 64.

Recorded by Barnes, but, as no specimen was collected, the identity of the species is by no means established.

12. *FALCO PUNICUS*, Levaill. ; Gurney, *List of B. of Prey*, p. 107.

*Falco barbarus*, Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 64.

Dr. Sharpe informs me that he considers his former identification of Barnes's bird may be incorrect, and that the identification of Lord Lilford, as given in the editorial note (*Ibis*, 1893, p. 65), is right. I never met with the species myself in the neighbourhood of Aden, but a young bird given to me by Mr. Chevallier is apparently an immature *F. punicus*. This bird was shot in September 1894, and is said to have played havoc among the Pigeons on Telegraph Hill for some time before it was killed.

13. *TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS* (Gm.) ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 65.

*Cerchneis*, sp. inc., Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 13.

A young male was shot at Lahej on Nov. 21st, 1894, by Capt. Nurse. The Kestrel is not uncommon at Aden. I paid a visit to the site of the nest mentioned in my former paper, but did not see the birds anywhere in its vicinity.

14. *PANDION HALIAËTUS* (Linn.) ; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 14; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 66.

I did not meet with the Osprey during my recent visit, but I think there is no doubt that it is resident and breeds in the peninsula.

## II. STRIGES.

15. *BUBO MILESI*, Sharpe, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 163, pl. vi.

A single specimen, said to have been shot at Haithalhim, was given to me by Mr. Chevallier. It agrees with the types of *B. milesi* in the British Museum. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe says of this Aden specimen:—"I notice that Mr. Gurney (*Ibis*, 1890, p. 262) suggests the identity of *Bubo milesi* with *Otus abyssinicus* of Guérin. This may be the case, but until an example of *B. milesi* has been compared

with Guérin's type it will be impossible to decide the question, for his description might be made to fit a dozen species of Owl. The figure given in the 'Atlas,' pl. iii., certainly looks like *B. milesi*, but is so bad that nothing can be made of it. The description may answer for *Asio butleri* of Hume, and I think that this is the bird which Heuglin refers to as *Otus abyssinicus*."

16. CARINE, sp. inc., Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 14; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 68.

I did not meet with this Owlet during my recent trip. When camped at Haithalhim, at the end of March, Owlets were to be heard nightly, but the light was too bad to admit of a specimen being shot.

17. ASIO ACCIPITRINUS (Pall.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. ii. p. 324.

A specimen of the Short-eared Owl has been obtained by Mr. Chevallier.

18. SCOPS GIU (Scop.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 68.

Recorded by Mr. Barnes.

19. STRIX FLAMMEA, Linn.; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 14; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 68.

I saw the Barn-Owl several times when camped at Haithalhim. A specimen killed on the 16th of March, 1895, was shot by mistake under the impression that it was of another species, and the skin was made into a screen. The Owls reputed to inhabit the neighbourhood of the houses of the Agents of the P. & O. and M. M. Companies are probably of this species.

### III. PICARIÆ.

20. CYPSELUS MELBA (Linn.).

*Micropus melba*, Hartert, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvi. p. 438 (1892).

*Cypselus*, sp. inc., Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 15; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 69.

The Swifts obtained by me at Lahej in March 1883 are entered in the British Museum Catalogue as of this species.

When I first arrived at Lahej, early in March 1895, a considerable number of Swifts were to be seen daily, and from their size I should say they were undoubtedly of this species; they all disappeared before the end of the month. At Shaik Othman, on the 3rd and 4th of April, a flock of Swifts was flying about over the village. I watched these birds for some time, but could not detect any white on their underparts, and I know that I have a similar note in my diary of 1885 regarding a flock seen at the tanks in Aden, but I cannot now verify the date; it is possible, therefore, that *C. apus* also occasionally visits the neighbourhood of Aden.

21. *CYPSELUS AFFINIS*, Hardw.

*Micropus affinis*, Hartert, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xvi. p. 453 (1892).

I met with examples of this species on two occasions hawking about over the bed of the Wady Sugher. The first was near Lahej on the 12th of March. On this occasion I fired three reduced charges (*vide* Hume, 'Indian Ornithological Collector's Vade Mecum') without result, and the flock declined to wait for further attentions. The second occasion was near Haithalhim on the 23rd of March, when I had only a butterfly-net with me.

22. *CAPRIMULGUS NUBICUS*, Licht.; Hartert, Cat. B. xvi. p. 560.

*Caprimulgus*, sp. inc., Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 15; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 69.

The Aden Nightjar is almost to a certainty of this species, still the single specimen obtained by me does not quite tally with either of the two specimens of *C. nubicus* in the British Museum. Capt. Nurse, 13th Bo.N.I., informs me that he found a nest containing two young Nightjars in a wady at Lahej in May 1894. The nest was probably one of this species.

I believe that a second species of Nightjar is to be found in the neighbourhood of Lahej; it is altogether a larger bird, but as the only glimpses of it have been obtained in

the gloaming, when it has been too dark to shoot, its identification must remain a mystery for the present.

23. *MEROPS CYANOPHRYS* (Cab. & Heine); Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 15; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 70.

Common inland and resident. I never found a nest of this species, though I saw a pair prospecting a hole in a nullah's bank near Lahej. The hole, however, was only about 6 inches deep, and if the birds had intentions of breeding in it, it would have required considerable deepening.

24. *MEROPS PERSICUS*, Pall.; Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xvii. p. 66 (1892); Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 70.

An Aden specimen of the Bee-eater is in the possession of Capt. Nurse, who procured it on the 14th of November 1894. I met with this bird only three times during my recent trip. At Lahej on the 12th of March a large flock was flying across from west to east, making a good deal of noise calling. A single specimen was seen at Shaik Othman on the 4th of March; while the third occasion was in the middle of the Red Sea, on the 21st of April, when a large flock was passing from west to east. This flock came fairly close to the ship, and from their appearance and voices I should say they were undoubtedly of this species.

25. *MEROPS*, sp. inc., Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 71.

With Barnes, I believe in the existence of a third species of Bee-eater at Aden, but its identity still awaits verification.

26. *CORACIAS GARRULA*, Linn.; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 15; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 71.

The European Roller appears to be a regular cold-weather visitant at Aden, though I did not see a single specimen during my recent visit. I can find only two records of its appearance logged in my old note-books, though I must have met with it much more frequently. These occasions were at Huswah in August, 1883, and Gold-Mohur Valley on the 14th of August. A specimen is in Mr. Chevallier's collection.

27. *CORACIAS ABYSSINICA*, Bodd. ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 72.

The only occasion that I met with a Long-tailed Roller was at Haithalhim on the 20th of March 1883.

28. *UPUPA EPOPS*, Linn. ; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 16 ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 73.

The Hoopoe is a regular cold-weather visitant.

29. *HALCYON SEMICERULEA* (Forsk.) ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 72.

I met with this bird twice during my recent visit, the first occasion being at the tanks on the 4th of April, 1895, and the second at Gold-Mohur Valley on the 18th of April. I saw the skin of a third specimen in the possession of Capt. Nurse, but took no note of date of capture.

30. *CUCULUS CANORUS*, Linn. ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 72.

Recorded by Mr. Barnes.

31. *COCCYSTES JACOBINUS* (Bodd.) ; Shelley, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xix. p. 217 (1891).

*Coccytes*, sp. inc., Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 15 ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 73.

I met with a pair of this bird on my way back to Shaik Othman among the baubul-trees beyond the edge of the cultivation of the Lahej oasis. Unfortunately I had knocked off the hammer of the right barrel of my gun just before I saw the birds, so, after a snap-shot at one of them through the trees, I was placed *hors-de-combat*. A specimen procured at Shaik Othman on the 31st of March is in Capt. Nurse's collection.

32. *CENTROPUS SUPERCILIOSUS* (Hempr. & Ehr.) ; Shelley, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xix. p. 363 (1891).

*Centropus*, sp. inc., Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 15 ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 73.

This bird's booming note is often to be heard round Lahej, and, in spite of its skulking habits, it was not unfrequently seen in March. The Arabs of that district call it "Hood-Hood," but Capt. Nurse informs me that "Hūd-IIūd" is



generally given in Arabic dictionaries as the equivalent of "Hoopoe."

#### IV. PASSERES.

33. *LANIUS LAHTORA*, Sykes ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 73.

*Lanius*, sp. inc., Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 16.

A specimen was obtained on the 31st of March in the baubul forest just outside the limits of the Lahej oasis. It is a common bird inland, and resident. I found a nest near the so-called forest at Shaik Othman in a prickly bush.

34. *LANIUS NUBICUS*, Licht. ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 16 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 73.

A specimen shot at Lahej in January 1885 has already been recorded. This is probably an uncommon species in the locality.

35. *LANIUS ISABELLINUS*, Ehr. ; Gadow, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. viii. p. 277 (1883).

Probably a resident. Although not uncommon, all the specimens met with were either females or immature males. Capt. Nurse's collection contains specimens from Lahej, procured there in December and March.

36. *LANIUS COLLURIO*, Linn. ; Gadow, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. viii. p. 286 (1883).

I procured an example of this species at Aden in April 1883. This was the specimen referred to in my previous paper (Ibis, 1886, p. 16) as having been sent to Mr. Hume. It is now in the British Museum.

37. *HYPOCOLIUS AMPELINUS*, Bp. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 316 (1877) ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 74.

Recorded by Barnes, but, like several species included in his list, on somewhat insufficient evidence. Still, as the bird is known to leave Fao in the autumn and to occur in the coast regions of Abyssinia, it may well be that it passes by Aden on migration.

38. *MUSCICAPA GRISOLA* (Linn.); Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 74.

I have no record of having met with this species in Aden or in its neighbourhood.

39. *TERPSIPHONE CRISTATA* (Linn.); Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 16.

*Terpsiphone paradisi*, Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 74.

A male shot at Lahej in March 1895 had acquired the elongated tail-feathers, and had begun to assume the white plumage of the adult. It is a rare bird in this neighbourhood, though probably more frequent when the country is under irrigation than at any other time.

40. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*, Linn.; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 14; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 68.

Not met with during my recent trip, but Capt. Nurse has a specimen killed near Aden on the 25th of October, 1894. It seems to visit Aden only after stormy weather.

41. *PTYONOPROGNE OBSOLETA* (Cab.).

*Cotile obsoleta*, Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 14; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 69.

This species appears to be much more abundant in Aden now than formerly. In 1884-85 I saw but few nests, situated, as a rule, in the roofs of caves in the rocks. This year, however, several nests were found in the Great and Little Tunnels and in one or two of the houses near the Native Infantry mess. Three is the usual number of eggs in a clutch. The size of the eggs in different clutches varies considerably, so much so as to cause doubt as to the identity of the parent birds. It is quite possible that *P. rupestris* may occur at Aden also.

42. *MONTICOLA CYANUS* (Linn.); Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 16; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 74.

The Rock-Thrush is a regular cold-weather visitant at Aden. I saw several times in the neighbourhood of Lahej a bird that looked like a species of *Thamnobia*, but failed to obtain a specimen.

43. *CERCOTRICHAS MELANOPTERA* (Hempr. & Ehr.); Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 16; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 75.

*a.* Lahej, March 1895.

A common bird inland. I found a nest of it at Shaik Othman on the 7th of April, 1895. It was placed between three almost vertical leaves of a young date-palm (which caused the nest to assume a peculiar triangular appearance on its outer margin) at about two feet from the ground. The nest contained two eggs of a pale greenish ground-colour, dotted with green-brown. The eggs were taken, as a week at least would have had to elapse before another visit could be paid to the nest. Probably, therefore, the full clutch of eggs was not laid.

44. *ARGYA SQUAMICEPS* (Cretzschm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 395 (1883).

*Argya*, sp. inc., Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 16; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 75.

A common bird inland. Oates's description of the habits of *A. earlii* (Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds, i. p. 106) exactly applies to this species also.

45. *PYCNONOTUS ARSINOE* (Hempr. & Ehr.); Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 17; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 74.

This is a common and permanent resident.

46. *PYCNONOTUS XANTHOPYGIUS* (Hempr. & Ehr.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 75.

*a.* Lahej, March 1895.

*b.* Aden. In the collection of Capt. Nurse.

This is another common permanent resident. A nest was found near the reservoir, in the Isthmus position, containing three hard-set eggs, and one of the parent birds was shot, as above noted. Although I kept a look-out for the large Bulbul previously referred to by Mr. Barnes and myself, I failed to meet with it during my recent visit.

47. *ORIOLOUS GALBULA*, Linn.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 76.

An occasional cold-weather visitor.

48. *SAXICOLA GENANTHE*, Linn. ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 76.

This species, recorded by Barnes, was never met with by me, but Capt. Nurse has a female bird shot on the 15th of November, 1894.

49. *SAXICOLA DESERTI*, Temm.

*Saxicola stapazina*, Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 76.

I did not for certain identify any Chats in my former paper, and only suggested that *S. stapazina* might be one of the species found near Aden. I have no doubt that *S. deserti* was the species I intended, and I have seen a male in Capt. Nurse's collection.

50. *SAXICOLA PLESCHANKA* (Lepech.) ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 76.

*Saxicola morio*, Seeb. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 372.

Observed by Barnes, but no specimen procured.

51. *SAXICOLA ISABELLINA* (Cretzschm.) ; Seeb. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. v. p. 300.

A specimen of this Chat is in Capt. Nurse's collection. It was shot at Shaik Othman, Oct. 28, 1894.

52. *MYRMECOCICHLA MELANURA*. (Plate I. fig. 2.)

*Myrmecocichla melanura* (Temm.) ; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 17 ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 77.

A common permanent resident. After a long search a nest of this bird, containing three young ones, was found in a deep hole in the vertical face of the Great Tunnel on the camp side. This is the bird most familiar to the Aden residents, taking the place with them of our own Robin, and has, too, a sweet little song. It can be understood, therefore, how loth one is to shoot a specimen.

The corresponding form of Palestine has lately been shown by Dr. Sharpe (Bull. B. O. C. iv. p. xxxviii ; *Ibis*, 1895, p. 384) to be distinct from the present species of Arabia, Abyssinia, and Somaliland, and named *Myrmecocichla yerburii* (Pl. I. fig. 1).

Both species are figured, for comparison, in the accompanying Plate.



J. G. Keulemans del. et lith.

1. MYRMECOCICHLA MELANURA.  
2. " YERBURYI.

Mittem Bros. imp.

53. *RUTICILLA*, sp. inc.

A Redstart is a casual cold-weather visitant, but the exact species awaits identification. It will, however, in all probability, be found to be *R. phoenicurus* or *R. mesoleuca*.

54. *PRINIA*, sp. inc.

A nest of a species of *Prinia* was found at Shaik Othman on February 24th, 1895, containing four brick-red eggs.

55. *CISTICOLA CISTICOLA* (Temm.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 259 (1883).

I brought back a battered specimen of a Fantail Warbler, which Dr. Sharpe identifies as belonging to this species.

56. *PHYLLOSCOPUS*, sp. inc., Barnes, t. c. p. 78.

I also have noticed a Willow Warbler on occasions, but could never manage to secure a specimen.

57. *BURNESIA GRACILIS* (Cretzschm.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. vii. p. 210 (1883).

A common bird round Lahej, wherever the tall rank grass grows. The dimensions of a specimen (shot March 22, 1895) taken in the flesh were :—Length from tip of bill to vent 3.50 inches, tail (root to end of longest feather) 1.55, pinion-joint to tip of second feather 1.95. All the specimens obtained were unfortunately spoilt, either by shot or in skinning. I regret not having made preparations for carbolizing specimens of the smaller birds.

58. *MOTACILLA ALBA*, Linn. ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 17 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 78.

A common cold-weather visitor.

59. *MOTACILLA FELDEGGI*, Michah. ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 17 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 79.

I saw a few Yellow Wagtails in the stream near Haithalhim in March 1895, but never had a gun with me when I chanced upon them. There is a specimen in the British Museum shot by Mr. Chevallier in May 1885.

60. *NECTARINIA METALLICA*, Licht. ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 15 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 73.

Common and generally distributed inland. At Haith-

allim in March it seemed to affect by preference bushes of *Calotropis gigantea*.

61. *DILOPHUS CARUNCULATUS* (Gm.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 18 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 80.

The flock previously recorded by me (Ibis, 1886, p. 18) is the only occasion on which I have met with this species.

62. *CORVUS AFFINIS*, Rüpp.

*Rhinocorax affinis*, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 46 (1877).

When first I arrived at Lahej in March 1895 there was a large flock of these birds in the neighbourhood. My attention was attracted to them by their curious call and their non-corvine look when on the wing, the latter due, I fancy, to a shortness of tail and great breadth of wing near the body, quite out of proportion to the size, as a Crow. The whole flock disappeared in about a fortnight, as, when I went out some days later to shoot another specimen, not a single bird was to be seen.

63. *CORVUS CORAX*, Linn.

Fairly common inland.

64. *CORVUS UMBRINUS*, Sundev. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 17 (1877).

a. Lahej, March 15, 1895.

b. Shaik Othman. In the collection of Capt. Nurse.

These Ravens are very plentiful at Lahej, Shaik Othman, and on the Isthmus, but during my recent trip I never saw them in Aden itself, except near the reservoir at the Isthmus position just inside the walls, and this seems to be the limit of their wanderings. Barnes records *C. culminatus* as the common Aden Crow, but the skins obtained, as above noted, are those of *C. umbrinus*. When I went to Aden in 1869 three Crows were to be frequently seen, and concerning them a story, as narrated by Barnes, existed. They were, however, frequently to be observed at Steamer Point ; I have seen them pretty well all over the peninsula, and they by no means confined themselves to the Isthmus position only. These birds were recorded (provisionally) by Blanford (' Fauna and

Flora of Abyssinia') when he passed through Aden at the time of the Abyssinian Expedition as *C. affinis*, but I think they were all defunct when I returned to Aden in 1882.

Crows breed in the rocks outside the Isthmus position and in the doum palms at Shaik Othman, at which latter place Capt. Nurse told me he took a nest containing four eggs on the 25th March, 1895.

65. *HYPHANTORNIS GALBULA* (Rüpp.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 18 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 80.

A resident, breeding in many places in the crater at Aden. It is very common, too, at Lahej and Shaik Othman.

66. *ESTRELLA RUFIBARBA* (Ehrenb.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1883, p. 18 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 82.

Obtained at Lahej in January 1884.

67. *ÆDEMOZYNE CANTANS* (Gm.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 371 (1890).

*Uroloncha*, sp. inc., Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 82.

Very common in flocks in the big baubul-trees at Shaik Othman and on the road to Lahej. This is probably the *Uroloncha* of Barnes's list. Capt. Nurse informs me that he found a nest of this bird, containing two pure white eggs, at Shaik Othman on the 25th of March, 1895.

68. *PASSER EUCHLORUS* (Licht.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 341 (1888).

Although not included in Mr. Barnes's list, I knew of the existence of this bird at Lahej, where it is very common, before I left Aden in 1885. One or more big flocks have established themselves now in Aden itself, breeding in the thorny trees at the tanks and alongside of the gaol-wall. They are gregarious and build a thick nest of thorny twigs. The eggs vary somewhat in markings and size. A clutch contains three eggs, and one taken by Capt. Nurse in May 1894 has been handed over to the British Museum.

It would be interesting if some one would devote a little time to working out the changes of plumage of males of this species, as males in all stages are to be seen in the flocks :—  
(i.) A bright canary-yellow, with a long, pale fawn-coloured,



almost white tail ; (ii.) like the former, but wanting the long tail ; and (iii.), a form hardly distinguishable from the females. What does this mixing up of forms mean ? I concluded it to indicate that these birds bred all the year round, and the fact that form i. is rare, while form iii. is by far the commonest, may lend some support to this, or it may mean that the males begin to assume the canary-coloured plumage at the end of the first year, but do not assume the long tail till the beginning of the second. As the birds breed gregariously, it would be difficult to identify the actual owners of any particular nest.

69. *PASSER DOMESTICUS* (Linn.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 307 (1888).

*Passer*, sp. inc., Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 18 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 83.

This is another bird that has increased tremendously in Aden of late years, while it absolutely swarms at Lahej and Shaik Othman. Formerly it was rare to see Sparrows anywhere in Aden except occasionally at the tanks ; now they are to be found in many places, and have even established themselves in the Crescent at Steamer Point, where I have both seen and heard them several times in the verandah and on the roof of the " Hôtel d'Europe."

In 1869, an ancient legend ran that somebody had imported some Sparrows and turned them loose at the tanks. These birds, finding Aden not a congenial abode, had migrated forthwith to Lahej. I should be very sorry to say that they were the ancestors of all the Sparrows now to be seen in the neighbourhood, still it was a well-accepted story at that time.

I am still far from satisfied that the House- and Tree-Sparrow do not both exist in Aden, and I know that some others entertain the same idea. It was with the object of proving this or the contrary that I brought skins from two localities (Lahej and Shaik Othman), but I soon saw that, so far as these two specimens were concerned, they were both House-Sparrows.

70. *Pyrrhuloxia melanocephala* (Cab.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 18 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 83.

Very common and a permanent resident in all desert parts of the district.

71. *Galerita cristata* (Linn.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 18 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 83.

A very common species inland.

72. *Alcedo desertorum* (Stanl.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 18 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 83.

Very common in the same localities as the last two species. I think these birds were breeding among the low *salsola* bushes close to the head of the harbour when I visited that place in April 1895. Several times I saw one of these birds (presumably a male) rise in a slanting direction about 30 feet up into the air, singing the while ; it would then drop almost vertically, and when it stopped singing I fancied I heard a faint answering twitter come from the low bushes, as though its mate was answering.

73. *Mirafra*, sp. inc.

Recorded by Barnes, but I do not remember ever having seen a Bush-Lark in Aden.

## V. COLUMBÆ.

74. *Columba waalia* (Gm.) ; Salvad. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxi. p. 15 (1893).

*Treron*, sp. inc., Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 18 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 165.

a. Lahej, March 17, 1895.

There were generally a pair of these birds feeding on the figs in the Sultan's garden at Lahej. They are said to be more common when the fields are being irrigated.

75. *Columba livia*, Bonn. ; Salvad. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxi. p. 252 (1893) ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 165.

These Pigeons are very abundant, breeding near the tanks and other places.

76. *TURTUR SENEGALENSIS* (Linn.) ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 165.

*Turtur*, sp. inc., Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 19.

This Dove is a common resident.

77. *TURTUR RISORIUS* (Linn.) ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 165.

This is another common resident.

78. *CENA CAPENSIS* (Linn.) ; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 19 ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 166.

These birds were in numbers in beautiful plumage during the month of March, 1895, at Lahej. Inland this is a common, generally distributed species.

## VI. PTEROCLETES.

79. *PTEROCLES EXUSTUS* (Linn.) ; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 19 ; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 166.

These birds begin to come in numbers about 7.30 A.M., on return from drinking, to the fields round Al Hautah, and snaring them is a favourite amusement of the small Arab boys, the *modus operandi* being as follows :—Eight or nine hardened balls of clay (about 1 inch in diameter) are fastened together ; each ball is perforated by a horsehair, having a noose at the end of it. A hole is scratched in one of the fields visited by the birds and the balls buried in it, so that the horsehair nooses are free ; each noose is then opened out, laid on the ground, and baited with a few grains.

At Haithalhim, while I was camped there, these birds came in thousands to drink in the stream, particularly at the last pool the water reached. Shooting Sand-Grouse, at the best of times, can hardly be called sport, but to shoot them under these conditions is nothing short of murder, and only justifiable when done in moderation for the pot. Early in April 1895 a big pool of rain-water was formed near Shaik Othman, and the Sand-Grouse came in great numbers to drink there. A hen, taken at hazard from a number shot (April 1, 1895), had an almost fully developed egg in her ovaries.

80. *PTEROCLES LICHTENSTEINI*, Temm. ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 19 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 166.

I only saw one specimen of this species during my recent visit, and that was among a lot of Grouse shot by Mr. Chevallier near the locality where we met with the large flock in March 1883. I believe this species to be common and resident, or at most only partially migrant ; and the reason of its being so seldom met with is that it is a truly desert form, and never visits the fields for the purpose of feeding, like the former species does, but lives on the seeds of various desert plants, *e. g.* salsola, mimosa, &c., and spends its time where these plants grow. Where and when it drinks is, I confess, a mystery—it cannot be along with *P. exustus*, as its peculiar note (a sort of whistle, generally twice repeated) would at once betray it. The Arabs of the Lahej district recognize two species, but call both alike “Uht-Uht,” a name founded presumably on the note of *P. exustus*, and therefore quite inapplicable to this species.

#### VII. GALLINÆ.

81. *CACCABIS MELANOCEPHALA* (Rüpp.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 19 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 166.

This species, the “Ukhob” of the Arabs of the district, is still abundant round Haithalhim, and out towards Zaidah in March 1895 the birds were still in coveys and showed no signs of breeding ; nor did any of the specimens obtained show breeding-symptoms, whereas those shot and seen in March 1883–84 all alike showed them unmistakably. This may have been due to the unusual dryness of the season in 1895, or, I think more probably, to the destruction of the old garden at Haithalhim, with its attendant irrigation-system. This has undoubtedly affected a considerable area, and may have retarded the breeding-season a month or more.

82. *CACCABIS CHUKAR*, Gray ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 166.

I am still doubtful of the existence of this bird in the neighbourhood of Aden.

83. *AMMOPERDIX BONHAMI* (Fraser); Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 166; Ogilvie Grant, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxii. p. 123 (1893).

I have never seen a See-see obtained in the neighbourhood of Aden, but the fact of one being found in the hills inland is well established. Barnes has identified the species as *A. bonhami*, but I think it just as likely to be *A. heyi*.

84. *COTURNIX COMMUNIS*, Bonn.; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 167.

*Coturnix dactylisonans*, Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 20.

Grey Quail visit the neighbourhood of Aden at times in considerable numbers, and are often seen in Aden itself. About Lahej the Arabs snare considerable numbers of Quail of all sorts, which are brought into Aden for sale.

85. *COTURNIX DELEGORGUEI*, Deleg.; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 168; Ogilvie Grant, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxii. p. 243 (1893).

Although I appear to have overlooked this species during my former visits to Aden, I found it round Lahej in March 1895 as plentiful as the Grey Quail. I doubt its being a true migrant.

86. *TURNIX LEPURANA* (Smith); Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 168; Ogilvie-Grant, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* xxii. p. 539 (1893).

Although I set myself the task of obtaining a specimen of this species, I failed to do so. I flushed the bird frequently, but never chanced to have a gun with me at the time. It always struck me that the birds flushed looked, when on the wing, more like Bush- than Button-Quail, and had I been in India I should have put them down to be *Perdicula asiatica*. An idea seems to exist that a Bustard-Quail is to be found round Lahej, but I doubt there being any ground for it.

#### VIII. ALECTORIDES.

87. *EUFODOTIS ARABS* (Linn.); Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 20; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 168.

The numbers of Bustard (local name "Būlawān") round

Lahej have sadly diminished since 1885. During the month I spent out there in 1895 I only saw the bird twice.

88. *HOUBARA MACQUEENI* (J. E. Gray); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 168; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiii. p. 318 (1894).

Though I have never seen a specimen from the neighbourhood, still I have no doubt of its existence there. I believe, too, that a small Bustard is to be found in the vicinity of Bir Ahmed and Huswah.

### IX. FULICARIÆ.

89. *RALLUS AQUATICUS*, Linn.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxiii. p. 20 (1894).

I flushed two Water-Rails in the stream at Haithalhim on the 24th of March. I got the gun and tried to put them up again, but did not succeed, as might have been expected, the reeds being 12 or 14 feet high. They looked exactly like the European Water-Rail.

90. *GALLINULA*, sp. inc.

I saw a Waterhen swimming about in a pool in the river near Haithalhim on the 23rd of March. It looked like the English Moorhen.

91. *CREX PRATENSIS*, Bechst.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 172.  
Found by Barnes at Aden.

### X. LIMICOLÆ.

92. *CURSORIUS*, sp. inc.

The exact species of the Courser found at Aden still remains a mystery.

93. *SQUATAROLA HELVETICA* (Linn.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 169.

A cold-season visitor.

94. *CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS*, Linn.; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 20; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 169.

I believe this to be an occasional cold-weather visitor, as,

although I have never shot it myself, I have heard from others (who ought to know what Golden Plovers are like) of their having done so.

95. *ÆDICNEMUS SCOLOPAX* (S. G. Gm.); Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 20; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 769.

As some doubt exists as to the specific identification of the Aden Thick-knee, I rather exerted myself to get a specimen. It is a common bird and frequently seen near Lahej, but its powers of running are such that it invariably beat us. On one occasion I gave the gun and a couple of cartridges to an Arab, and told him to try and shoot one of a pair we had moved. He crawled and wriggled, in a manner I could not have done, to within twenty yards, fired, and—missed, of course; but this man was the worst shot, I think, I ever met with. The Arabic name for the Thick-knee is “*Karrawān*.”

96. *ÆGIALITIS MONGOLICA* (Pall.); Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 169.

Mentioned by Barnes.

97. *ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA* (Lath.); Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 170.

A specimen procured near Aden on the 6th of January, 1895, is in Capt. Nurse's collection.

98. *STREPSILAS INTERPRES* (Linn.); Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 20; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 170.

See the former notices.

99. *DROMAS ARDEOLA*, Payk.; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 20; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 170.

Not met with during my recent visit to Aden. These birds breed in considerable numbers in May on the island of Sad-ad-din, near Zeila, on the Somali coast.

100. *HÆMATOPUS OSTRALEGUS*, Linn.; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 21; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 170.

There seems to be some doubt as to the specific identification of this bird. It was plentiful enough up the

harbour, but quite capable of taking care of itself. I tried to get it on two or three occasions, but without success.

101. HIMANTOPUS CANDIDUS, Bonn.

A Stilt is in Mr. Chevallier's collection.

102. TOTANUS CALIDRIS (Linn.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 172.

103. HELODROMAS OCHROPUS (Linn.) ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 172.

*Totanus ochropus*, Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21.

Plentiful on the stream near Haithalhim, March 1895.

104. TRINGOIDES HYPOLEUCUS (Linn.) ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 171.

*Actitis hypoleuca*, Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21.

105. TEREKIA CINEREA (Güld.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 171.

106. CALIDRIS ARENARIA (Linn.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 171.

107. TRINGA ALPINA, Linn. ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 171.

*Tringa cinclus*, Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21.

108. TRINGA MINUTA, Leisl. ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 171.

To our previous notes on the small Waders I have nothing to add.

109. NUMENIUS ARQUATA (Linn.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 171.

110. NUMENIUS PHEOPUS (Linn.) ; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21 ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 171.

111. GALLINAGO CÆLESTIS, Frenzel ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 171.

*Gallinago*, sp. inc., Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 21.

Personally I have met with but one Snipe in the neighbourhood of Aden, but a few are to be found every year at Lahcj when the fields are flooded. A year or two back the (at the time) Brigade Major at Aden and another gun got



20 couple at Huswah, but this was after an unusually heavy flood. I heard, too, of a Snipe having been picked up in the compound of the N. I. mess in the Crater itself.

#### XI. GAVIÆ.

112. *LARUS AFFINIS*, Reinh.

*Larus*, sp. inc., Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 175.

This is the undetermined Gull of Barnes's list. It was fairly common at Aden in February and April 1895, and I brought specimens to the British Museum.

113. *LARUS ICHTHYAËTUS*, Pall.; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 23; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 175.

114. *LARUS BRUNNEICEPHALUS*, Jerd.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 175.

115. *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS*, Linn.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 776.

a. Aden, Feb. 19, 1895.

b. Aden, 1895.

116. *LARUS HEMPRICHI*, Bp.; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 22; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 176.

117. *STERNA ALBIGENA*, Reichenb.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 176.

118. *STERNA MINUTA*, Linn.; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 23; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 177.

This species undoubtedly does visit Aden, though the specimen recorded (Ibis, 1886, p. 23) was caught in a butterfly-net when going ashore at Bunder Marriyah, on the Somali coast.

119. *STERNA BERGII*, Licht.; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 23; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 177.

120. *STERNA MEDIA*, Horsf.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 178.

121. *STERNA ANÆSTHETA*, Scop.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 178.

122. *STERNA FULIGINOSA*, Gm.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 178.

123. STERNA ANGLICA, Mont.

a. Aden, April 9, 1895.

b. Aden, November 18, 1894. In the possession of Capt. Nurse.

It is strange that the only specimen of a Tern procured during my last visit should belong to a species not previously recorded from Aden.

## XII. PYGOPODES.

124. PODICIPES NIGRICOLLIS, Brehm ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 174.

## XIII. TUBINARES.

125. PUFFINUS PERSICUS, Hume ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 175.

I have nothing to add to Barnes's notes on these species.

## XIV. HERODIONES.

126. ARDEA CINEREA, Linn. ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 173.  
A cold-season visitor.

127. ARDEA ALBA, Linn. ; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 173.  
Noted by Barnes.

128. ARDEA GULARIS, Bosc.

*Ardea asha*, Sykes ; Barnes, l. c. p. 173.

This Reef-Heron, recorded by Barnes, is not likely to be the Indian species, and will doubtless be found to be *A. gularis* of the Red Sea.

129. ARDEA BUBULCUS, Audouin.

This is probably the "*Ardea*, sp. inc.," of Barnes's list. It was plentiful at Lahej in March 1895, and during the whole of that month some of them were breeding in Al Hautah itself. Capt. Nurse found these birds nesting in the same place during February, and gave me a clutch of three eggs he had taken. These have been handed over to the British Museum.

130. ARDETTA PODICEPS (Bp.).

I believe I saw this bird on the rocks of an island in Ras

Fakoum Bay, April 6, 1895. I had been shooting Bats in the big cave of the island, and, having sent my gun back to the launch, was looking for shells round the shores of the island, when I flushed a Little Bittern; it only flew a few yards, and was flushed again and again in walking round the island. I have frequently seen the same species on the rocks round Aden, and there is nothing else on the Aden list that will at all answer to the bird seen.

131. *CICONIA ABDIMII*, Licht.

♂. Lahej, March 18, 1895. Bill dull horny green, the tip crimson; cheeks bright lead-colour; round the ears, in front of eyes, nostrils, and throat crimson; legs dull olive-green; feet and knees crimson; claws black.

This bird was one of a pair that had just started building in a country almond-tree (*Catappa terminalia*) in the Sultan's garden at Lahej. About a week later five or six pairs were seen similarly employed at Haithalhim.

132. *PLATALEA LEUCORODIA*, Linn.; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 22; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 174.

A cold-weather visitor.

133. *SCOPUS UMBRETTA*, Gm.

*Ibis*, sp. inc., Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 22; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 174.

a. Haithalhim, March 25, 1895.

This I believe to be the "*Ibis*, sp. inc." of Barnes's list, and the dark-coloured *Ibis* stated by me in my former paper as being common at Zaidah, and as breeding in the big tamarind-trees at Haithalhim. This species undoubtedly does breed in these trees, forming great stacks in the forks, each stack seeming to consist of several nests, with entrances at the sides. In one tree, in company with these birds, three pairs of *C. abdimii* were commencing to build.

## XV. PHENICOPTERI.

134. *PHENICOPTERUS ROSEUS*, Linn.; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 22; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 174.

A cold-weather visitor.

## XVI. ANSERES.

## 135. SPATULA CLYPEATA (Linn.).

In a case of Ducks set up by Mr. Chevallier, and shot by himself in the Lahej district, this was the only species I recognized. That several species of Duck are to be found round Lahej at the time of inundation (November) is beyond doubt. The only Duck, however, that I have met with personally is *Querquedula crecca*.

## 136. ANAS BOSCAS, Linn.; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 174.

137. QUERQUEDULA CRECCA (Linn.); Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 22; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 174.

138. QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA (Linn.); Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 174.

## XVII. STEGANOPODES.

139. PHALACROCORAX, sp. inc.; Yerbury, Ibis, 1886, p. 24; Barnes, Ibis, 1893, p. 179.

The locality for the Brown Cormorant given by Barnes is no longer available, as a wall has been built across the opening between the Scerah Mole battery and the scarp of Scerah Island, rendering approach to the sea-shore almost impossible. After having paid two or three visits to this locality, one to Marshag, and kept a general look-out for Brown Cormorants without seeing one, I was nearly coming to the conclusion that some mistake had been made, and that all our supposed Brown Cormorants were Boobies. However, on my last visit to Barnes's locality, a few days before leaving, one of these birds came and settled in water about 80 yards off and decided the question; it might have been shot, but could not have been retrieved.

As we were returning from Ras Fakoum Bay on the 6th of April, a Black Cormorant was seen flying in shore along the coast of Little Aden—so that two forms of Cormorants, a black and a brown one, appear to exist at Aden.

140. *SULA FIBER* (Linn.); Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 179.

*a, b.* Little Aden, April 6, 1895.

A number of these birds were seen sitting on a rock off Little Aden on the 6th of April. As it was thought possible that they were breeding, it was decided to take the row-boat and land on the rock. Three birds were shot as the flock flew away, but, though there were plenty of droppings on the rock, there was no sign of breeding. These birds were troubled with a large dipterous parasite (*Ornithomyia*), but I only succeeded in obtaining one specimen of it. The Brown Cormorants previously reported by me as having been seen at Marshag undoubtedly belonged to this species.

On the outward voyage in the Red Sea, when off Jebel Tier and the Apostles on the 5th of February, considerable numbers of these birds were seen. The greater number were in pairs, and were possibly breeding on these barren islets.

141. *PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS*, Linn.; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 24; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 179.

142. *PHAËTHON INDICUS*, Hume; Yerbury, *Ibis*, 1886, p. 23; Barnes, *Ibis*, 1893, p. 179.

I saw two or three of these birds sitting on a detached rock (but little above the wash of the sea) below the ladder at Marshag on the 7th of April, in company with several specimens of *Sula fiber*.

A comparison of this list with that published by the late Lieut. Barnes (*vide* 'Journal Bo. N. H. Society,' vol. viii. pp. 231-233) will show the addition of the following 16 species to the Aden fauna, viz. :—

*Circus macrurus*, p. 15.  
*Bubo milesi*, p. 16.  
*Asio accipitrinus*, p. 17.  
*Cypselus affinis*, p. 18.  
*Lanius isabellinus*, p. 21.  
*Saxicola isabellina*, p. 24.  
*Cisticola cisticola*, p. 25.  
*Burnesia gracilis*, p. 25.

*Corvus affinis*, p. 26.  
*Passer euchlorus*, p. 27.  
*Rallus aquaticus*, p. 23.  
*Gallinula*, sp., p. 33.  
*Himantopus candidus*, p. 35.  
*Sterna anglica*, p. 37.  
*Ciconia abdimii*, p. 38.  
*Spatula clypeata*, p. 39.

The following "species incertæ" have been identified, viz.:—

Cypselus melba, p. 17.	Ædemosyne cantans, p. 27.
Caprimulgus nubicus, p. 18.	Passer domesticus, p. 28.
Coccyzus jacobinus, p. 20.	Vinago waalia, p. 29.
Centropus superciliosus, p. 20.	Larus affinis, p. 36.
Lanius collurio, p. 21.	Ardea bubulcus, p. 37.
Argya squamiceps, p. 23.	Scopus umbretta, p. 38.

The present list is, I think, fairly complete, so far as our meagre knowledge of the avifauna of Aden allows. But as the above-given identifications and additions were in great measure made by one not devoting himself especially to ornithology, and in only about ten weeks' collecting, it shows how much still remains to be done. I trust, therefore, that some resident of the place will take the birds in hand and make a really complete list, in lieu of the present one. Eight "species incertæ" still await identification, while a few, included, I fear, on but slight evidence, e. g. *Caccabis chukar*, *Saxicola pleschanka*, *Haliaëtus leucogaster*, and possibly some few others, require verification, and this task I commend to this unknown personage to start on.

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III.—*On the Birds observed at the Salvage Islands, near Madeira.* By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

WHILE spending some weeks at Madeira in the spring of 1890 I heard so much about the Salvage Islands, and the enormous number of sea-birds that breed there, that I determined to pay them a visit at the earliest opportunity. It was not, however, till the spring of 1895 that the long-contemplated visit became possible, for these rocky islets—which lie, roughly speaking, about halfway between Madeira and the Canaries—are considered, and justly so, very dangerous to approach, so that steamers passing to and fro give them a wide berth. The only means, therefore, of reaching them are to hire a vessel either at Madeira or the Canaries, which of course entails a very considerable